

**Joe Schmidt**

*Commissioner*

P.O. Box 112000

Juneau, AK 99811-2000

[www.corrections.state.ak.us](http://www.corrections.state.ak.us)



**Richard Schmitz**

*Special Assistant*

907.465.4640

cell: 907.209 5245

[richard.schmitz@alaska.gov](mailto:richard.schmitz@alaska.gov)

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 08-092

December 24, 2008

### **BOND SALE ADVANCES POINT MACKENZIE PRISON PROJECT**

JUNEAU – With the sale of \$240 million in municipal bonds, construction will begin this spring on the Department of Corrections' newest facility, the 1,536-bed Goose Creek Correctional Center, located at Point Mackenzie in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

The facility – designed to house sentenced inmates – is projected to open in late 2011 or early 2012.

"In selling bonds in a stressed economy, we were patient and waited until conditions were right," said Commissioner Joe Schmidt.

"I don't want to celebrate a new prison, because the health of a community is not indicated by the size of its prison system. But I am pleased that we will be bringing corrections jobs home from Arizona," the Commissioner said. "I'm pleased that we will be providing construction jobs for Alaskans. And it's my hope that when this prison opens it will help successfully reintegrate offenders to be part of a productive workforce."

Neeser Construction, Inc. was selected to design and build the prison.

The bonds are issued by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough under provision of legislation passed in 2004 (Senate Bill 65) and will be used to finance construction of the prison. The Department of Corrections will lease the prison from the borough, operate the prison, and then own the facility when the bonds are repaid in 25 years.

It is estimated that as many as 700 construction jobs will be generated by the project.

